

**TOWN OF CALAIS
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN

- 1) Plow routes are set up to open the major traffic routes and bus routes first. After all bus routes are done, the roads that cause the most trouble for the public are plowed, based on traffic volume, steepness, curves, etc. Plowing is continued until all roads are open.
- 2) Given the circumstances involved with changing weather conditions, the Town of Calais does not have a bare road policy. Travelers who use town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution during winter conditions.
- 3) During winter weather events, the town will enforce a ban on all parking along roadsides and places where plow trucks or schoolbuses turn around. (See the town's Parking and Snow Removal Ordinance)*
- 4) The Town of Calais has four employees to do winter maintenance on 83 miles of town highways. Each employee has a specific route, which takes about six to 10 hours to complete. We vary from these routes only for emergency situations (fire, ambulance, etc.).
- 5) The town does not plow Class 4 roads, private roads or private driveways. At the discretion of the Road Commissioner, occasional plowing and sanding of these roadways may be done for the safety and well-being of town residents and the traveling public. (See the town's Class IV Road Policy)*
- 6) The road crew usually begins operations between 2:30 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. to have major highways and bus routes clear by 7:00 a.m.
- 7) After 12 hours on the job, the road crew may stop operations in order to get a minimum of six hours of rest.
- 8) If a mail box is dislodged from its location during a winter event, an investigation will be made as soon as possible. If the town is directly responsible for damage, the town will replace the mail box with one standard box from the local hardware store and a 4x4 post. The town will not fix any mail box that was in poor condition or not adequately installed.
- 9) 19 V.S.A. §1111 prohibits encroachments of the town's right-of-way without approval. Common items residents place in the town's right-of-way include trees & bushes, fences, flowerbeds, posts and stone walls. Objects in the town's right-of-way are placed at the owner's risk and the town assumes no responsibility for any damage to objects placed in violation of the town's Right of Way Ordinance.*
- 10) Salt will be applied to most paved roads, with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.
- 11) Sand will be applied to the gravel roads. Some particles in the sand mixture may be as large as ½" in size and may cause windshield damage. It is recommended that all travelers use caution and avoid following any winter maintenance vehicles too closely. The town will not pay for replacement or repair of windshields.
- 12) Grading of roads between November 1 and May 1 is minimal due to wet and/or frozen conditions.
- 13) Under 19 V.S.A. §1111(b) and 23 V.S.A. §1126(a) plowing, blowing or shoveling of snow across or onto a town or state highway is prohibited. Violation of this statute may be subject to a fine or penalty. A violator may also be liable for damage to property, vehicles and any undue cost to the town for removal of this snow.
- 14) In most cases, there will be no road maintenance between 9:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.

Approved by the Calais Selectboard, December 9, 2013

*Ordinances can be found at www.calaisvermont.gov